

Broadly speaking, the author finds the juvenile delinquent either feeble-minded or what he characterizes as "psychopathic." His views as to the second group are not particularly encouraging or hopeful. He appears to regard the cases included in it as suffering from actual mental disease; and, somewhat unconvincingly, attributes this in a large proportion of cases to the influence of congenital syphilis. The term "psychopathic child" is not satisfactory; we should imagine that it must include a number of benign cases, due to unfavourable environment, neglect, and psychogenetic factors, in which a psychotherapeutic approach would be very beneficial.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

THE thirty-ninth annual *Year Book of the Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland*⁶ is a well arranged volume which records the work done in science, literature, and art during the past year. The information which it gives cannot easily be found elsewhere, and the increasing size and scope of the volume make it each year more useful as a work of reference. Such a volume depends greatly upon the co-operation that exists between the officials of the numerous scientific and literary societies and the publishers, and both are, on the whole, to be congratulated on the results. The contents are grouped under sections, which include science generally—that is to say, those societies occupying themselves with several different branches of science, or with science and literature jointly: astronomy, mathematics, and physics; chemistry and photography; geography, geology, and mineralogy; biology; economic science and statistics; mechanical science and architecture; agriculture and horticulture; literature, history, and music; medicine; archaeology; and some others. Twenty-four pages seem hardly an adequate share for medicine in a scientific reference volume of 374 pages, but the fault may be rather with the secretaries of medical societies than with the editors of the *Year Book*. The personnel of the Ministry of Health is detailed, and the names are given of the principal officers of the British Medical Association, with the titles of the papers read at the different Sections of the Annual Meeting. The titles of all the papers read at the Royal Society of Medicine are included, and also the titles of the publications issued by the Medical Research Council and of the scientific papers published from the Lister Institute, together with similar details of many medical societies throughout the country.

The application to psychology in recent times of what in comparison with the older procedure by way of introspection may be called the observational and experimental methods has had the effect of greatly increasing public interest, and it is a sign of the times that a publication written so completely from the popular standpoint as the *Daily Mail Year Book* (1923) should contain an article on applied psychology. Within the limited space at his disposal Mr. W. N. Shansfield has succeeded in giving the casual reader a very good idea of what is being done with regard especially to applications of science to the estimation of industrial capacity, and of the intelligence and aptitude of children; in this connexion he relates the origin of the Binet-Simon tests, designed mainly to detect the cause of backwardness in any particular case. Dr. Kimmins, speaking from his experience in London schools in an address given during the annual conference of the Education Association last week, praised the Dalton plan for discovering the unusually endowed or unusually quickly learning child and giving scope to this ability or quickness, while not forgetting that the tortoise may win the race.

Professor HALLIBURTON'S book, *The Essentials of Chemical Physiology* for the use of students,⁷ was first published in 1893. New editions have been called for every three or four years, and we have now received a copy of the eleventh. It does not differ materially from the tenth, but new exercises have been introduced dealing with the detection of enzymes, the estimation of oxygen in the blood, and on gastric acid. Opportunity has been taken to rewrite the section on coagulation of blood; in concluding this section the author admits that he finds it difficult to be dogmatic and has been content to give an outline of what to his mind is the probable explanation of the remarkable phenomenon of coagulation. The exact part played by the platelets has still to be ascertained, but he thinks it not improbable that their function, if any, will be found in their effect upon surface action.

⁶ *The Year Book of the Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland*. Thirty-ninth issue. London: C. Griffin and Co., Ltd. 1922. (Demy 8vo, pp. vi + 374, 15s.)

⁷ *The Essentials of Chemical Physiology*. For the Use of Students. By W. D. Halliburton, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. Eleventh edition. London and New York: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1922. (Demy 8vo, pp. xi + 343; 71 figures, 1 plate. 8s. 6d. net.)

DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT, 1920.

THE POSITION OF DOCTORS AND DENTISTS.

THE following memorandum, dated January 9th, has been issued by the Home Office, and will subsequently be published in pamphlet form by the Stationery Office:

HOME OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

1. By the Dangerous Drugs Act and the Regulations made under it certain obligations in regard to the giving of prescriptions, keeping of records, etc., devolve on medical and dental practitioners and the Home Secretary, with whose Department rests the general responsibility for the administration of the Act and Regulations, has had under consideration the best means of carrying out such inspection as may be necessary from time to time to ensure the due fulfilment of those obligations. He has come to the conclusion that such inspection would be best carried out by medical officers, and after consultation with the Minister of Health and the Scottish Board of Health, it has been arranged that as a general rule this work shall be carried out in England and Wales by medical officers of the Ministry of Health, and in Scotland by medical officers of the Scottish Board of Health.

2. It is considered that it may be convenient for doctors and dentists to have a short statement of the main provisions of the Act and Regulations in which they are specially concerned.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Substances Involved.

3. The substances to which the Dangerous Drugs Act applies are:

Raw opium; and

Collectively referred to as Dangerous Drugs:—

Medicinal opium;

Cocaine and ecgonine and their salts;

Morphine and its salts;

Diamorphine (heroin) and its salts; and any preparation, admixture, extract or other substance containing one-fifth per cent. or more of morphine or one-tenth per cent. or more of cocaine, ecgonine, or diamorphine.

The percentage in the case of morphine is calculated as in respect of anhydrous morphine.

4. No person is allowed to bring into, or take out of the country any of the drugs unless he is licensed by the Home Secretary, and no person is allowed to be in possession of the drugs (subject to the exceptions named in the next paragraph) unless he is licensed or otherwise authorized for the purpose, or unless the drug has been supplied for his use by a medical practitioner or in accordance with a medical or dental prescription.

Preparations Exempted.

5. It should be noted that the following preparations, though they come within the Act, are specially exempted from the Regulations and may be bought and sold in this country in the same way as ordinary "poisons" under the Poisons and Pharmacy Act:

Cereoli iodoformi et morphinae, B.P.C.

Emp. opii, B.P. 1898.

Lin. opii, B.P.

Lin. opii ammon., B.P.C.

Pasta arsenicalis, B.P.C.

Pil. hydrarg. c. opio, B.P.C.

Pil. ipec. c. scilla, B.P.

Pil. plumbi c. opio, B.P.

Pil. digit. et opii co., B.P.C.

Pil. hydrarg. c. creta et opii, B.P.C.

Pulv. cretae aromat. c. opio, B.P.

Pulv. ipecac. co., B.P. (Dover's powder).

Pulv. kino. co., B.P.

Suppos. plumbi co., B.P.

Tabletæ plumbi c. opio, B.P.C.

Ung. gallae c. opio, B.P.

Ung. gallae co., B.P.C.

It should also be noted that the following preparations do not come within the Dangerous Drugs Act:

Any preparation containing less than one-fifth per cent. of morphine or one-tenth per cent. of cocaine, ecgonine, or heroin. Thus any mixture containing in each drachm not more than 11 minims of tr. opii or 13 minims of liquor morphinae hydrochlor. and 15 minims of liquor morphinae acetat. would be unaffected by any of the provisions of the Regulations.

Medical Practitioners and Dentists are authorized Persons.

6. Any duly qualified medical practitioner and any registered dentist is authorized by the Regulations to be in possession of and to supply dangerous drugs and (in the case of medical practitioners only) raw opium, so far as is necessary for the practice of his profession. The words [in italics] are important: a doctor or dentist may not have or use the drugs for any other purpose than that of ministering to the strictly medical, or dental, needs of his patients.

7. Subsequently throughout this Memorandum "doctor" is to be read as meaning a medical practitioner whose name is on the *Medical Register*; and "dentist" as a dental practitioner whose name is on the *Dental Register*.

8. In what follows it should be noted that Part II applies to all practising doctors and dentists, Part III to those only that dispense.

II. REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL DOCTORS.

Prescriptions.

9. The following remarks only apply to prescriptions for medicines containing a dangerous drug in sufficient strength to come within the Act (see above).

10. The Home Secretary has power to prescribe an official form to be used for such prescriptions, but he has not at present done so.

11. Under the Regulations the prescription—

(a) must be in writing and be dated;

(b) must be signed with the full name of the prescribing doctor or dentist (the Christian names, as well as the surname, must be written in full; initials do not satisfy the Regulations*);

(c) must bear the address of the prescribing doctor or dentist (except in the case of prescriptions issued for National Health Insurance purposes on the official form);

(d) must state the name and address of the patient (a prescription may not be given for the use of the prescriber himself);

(e) must state the total amount of the drug to be supplied on the prescription.

12. Dentists may give prescriptions for dental treatment only, and in addition to complying with the above requirements they must mark the prescription "for local dental treatment only."

13. The prescription has to be retained by the chemist by whom it is dispensed (except in the case of prescriptions issued for National Health Insurance purposes on the official form), and he is only allowed to dispense it once, unless the doctor or dentist specially directs in the prescription that it may be dispensed twice or three times (but not more than three times) at intervals which he specifies. In no case is the chemist allowed to dispense it more than three times.

14. A doctor or dentist who gives, and a chemist who accepts and dispenses, a prescription not drawn up in every particular in accordance with these Regulations commits an offence against the Act.

15. The Home Secretary desires to impress as strongly as possible on doctors and dentists the importance of their observing these requirements strictly when giving a prescription. Any irregularity on the part of the doctor or dentist may lead to delay in the patient obtaining the medicine prescribed for him, and it is extremely unfair to the chemist that he should be placed in the position of delaying an important prescription, and possibly offending the doctor or dentist, or committing a breach of the law. The Secretary of State has reason to believe that at the present time there are very numerous irregularities in giving prescriptions for the drugs, and representations have been made to him by chemists as to the difficult position in which they are placed, and, he is afraid he must add, the annoyance or resentment displayed by doctors and dentists in many cases at being asked to correct the irregularities of their prescriptions.

Method of Obtaining Supplies of the Drugs.

16. A doctor or dentist who requires the drugs for the purpose of his practice may obtain them from any person who has a general licence or authority under the Dangerous Drugs Act to supply the drugs. All pharmacists who are lawfully keeping open shop in accordance with the provisions of the Pharmacy Acts are so authorized (except in the rare cases where the authorization has had to be withdrawn for offences against the Regulations), and all or practically all the established firms of wholesale chemists have also obtained licences from the Home Secretary to supply the drugs. In any case of doubt a doctor or dentist can always ascertain, by inquiry from the Home Office, whether a firm is authorized to supply the drugs or not.

17. It will assist the administration of the law, and probably also save the doctor or dentist some inconvenience, if he gives all orders for the drugs in writing (except in cases of extreme emergency), and signs them with his full name and address. The chemist has to satisfy himself before selling the drugs that the purchaser is authorized by the Regulations to have them, and in cases where the doctor or dentist is not well known to him some delay in making inquiries may be avoided by a full written order, duly signed.

18. If a messenger is sent by the doctor or dentist to take delivery of the drugs, the messenger must be given an authority in writing, signed by the doctor or dentist, to receive the drugs on behalf of the doctor or dentist; a chemist is forbidden to deliver drugs to a messenger not so authorized.

19. A doctor or dentist is not allowed to be supplied with the drugs on a prescription made out by himself in his own favour.

20. Doctors and dentists are advised to keep any dangerous drugs, when not in use, under lock and key so far as possible. This is not actually required by the Regulations, but is obviously a desirable precaution.

21. A doctor or dentist who requires the drugs solely for administration to his patients by himself personally, or under his own direct personal supervision, and does not dispense them, is under no obligation to keep the records required by the Regulations as explained in Part III of this Memorandum.

III. REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO DISPENSING DOCTORS.

22. Doctors who dispense or supply medicine* are under the obligation to keep the registers of purchases and supplies described below.

Register of Purchases.

23. Separate registers or separate parts of a register are to be appropriated for each of the drugs. The form in which the register has to be kept is as follows:

Date on which supply received.	Name of person, body, or firm from whom obtained.	Address of person, body, or firm from whom obtained.	Amount obtained.	Form in which obtained.

24. The correct entry in the register must be made on the day on which the drug is received or the following day; an entry must not be cancelled, obliterated, or altered—any mistake must be corrected by a footnote or marginal note giving the correct particulars, and dated.

Register of Supplies.

25. Similar registers or parts of a register must be kept for each drug "supplied" in the following form:

Date of supply.	Name of person to whom supplied.	Address of person to whom supplied.	Authority of person, body, or firm to be in possession of the drug.*	Amount in which supplied.	Form supplied.	Specify the ingredients of the prescription.

* Where, as will usually be the case, the supply is on the doctor's own prescription, it will be sufficient to enter the word "Patient" in this column.

26. The entry must be made on the day on which the drug is supplied or the following day. The same rules as to mistakes and corrections apply.

27. *N.B.*—It is specially provided, however, by the Regulations, that if a doctor keeps a day-book in which he records particulars of any of the drugs dispensed by him to his patients, with the name and address of the patient and date of supply, he need only record in his register of supplies the date and the appropriate reference to the entry in his day-book.

28. A doctor who dispenses at more than one set of premises is required to keep a separate register or registers at each set of premises.

29. All records, including registers, day-books, and other documents, must be kept for not less than two years from the date of the document or the last entry therein.

IV. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES.

30. A doctor or dentist who obtains, or attempts to obtain, the drugs for a purpose not covered by his authorization, or who infringes any of the Regulations, commits an offence against the Act, and if convicted is liable to a fine of £200 or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for six months, or to both fine and imprisonment.

31. Further, the Home Secretary has power, after the conviction of any doctor or dentist, to withdraw from him his authorization; the effect of this would be to deprive him entirely of the right to be in possession of or to supply the drugs.

V. HOSPITALS, ETC.

32. Hospitals, asylums, Poor Law institutions, or sanatoriums supported by a public authority or out of public funds, or by a charity or voluntary subscriptions, have been exempted by Home Office Order from the operation of the Dangerous Drugs Regulations subject to compliance with the conditions laid down in the Order. The terms of the Order (dated August 15th, 1921, and to be obtained from the Stationery Office) should be consulted.

VI. INSPECTION.

33. All registers, and other records, required to be kept for the purposes of the Dangerous Drugs Act and Regulations thereunder, and any stocks of the drugs held, must at all times be available for inspection by any duly authorized inspector.

34. As indicated in the opening paragraph of this Memorandum, the Home Secretary has authorized Medical Officers of the Ministry of Health and of the Scottish Board of Health to act as Inspectors for this purpose in England and Wales and in Scotland respectively.

35. Notice of a visit for the purposes of inspection will not necessarily be given, and medical practitioners who dispense should make such arrangements that the registers and other records can be produced, if required, for inspection in their absence.

* It is proposed in the case of prescriptions issued for National Health Insurance purposes on the official form to require only the surname in full, with the initials of the Christian names.

* The obligation would apply in the case of a doctor or dentist leaving a supply of any of the drugs with a nurse for administration to a patient during the absence of the doctor or dentist.